Canada Pictures Its World Heritage Sites

On March 31 Canada Post launched a UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Canada series. Canada has 17 UNESCO World Heritage, five of which are included in this first set, all in "Permanent" domestic rate (85¢) format. Left to right in the souvenir sheet, they are:

UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Canada / Sites du patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO au Canada
CANADA
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CANADIAN BANK NOTE
Gros Morne National Park / Parc national du Gros-Morne (NL) I Parks Canada / Parcs Canada;
Joggins Fossil Cliffs / Falaises fossilifères de Joggins (NS) I Joggins Fossil Institute;
Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks / Parcs des montagnes Rocheuses canadiennes (AB and / et BC) I Eric Frigon;
Nahanni National Park World Heritage Site / Parc national Nahanni, site du patrimoine mondial (NT) I Parks Canada / Parcs Canada;
Parc national de Miguasha / Miguasha National Park (QC) I Parc national de Miguasha / Miguasha National Park, SEPAQ
Photo : Eric Frigon Courtesy of Parks Canada / Avec la permission de Parcs Canada
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture
World Heritage in Canada
Patrimoine mondial au Canada
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The pristine ridges and cliffs, bogs and tundra, ocean inlets and lakes of **Gros Morne National Park** (Newfoundland and Labrador) might be stunning, but this site's World Heritage status was granted due to what is hidden underground, a perfect example of plate tectonics, proof the Earth's continents have joined and separated repeatedly over the eons. Once-liquid magma that filled the gap between plates of Earth's crust remains clearly visible in the cliffs of Gros Morne's Western Brook Pond.

Nearly 200 fossil species found in the **Joggins Fossil Cliffs** reveal the world's most complete record of terrestrial life from the Pennsylvanian Period (the Coal Age), over 300 million years ago. Here we find fossilized reptiles and amniotes, the first vertebrates to reproduce on land, marking one of the most significant events in the evolution of life on Earth.

Every year, more than nine million people visit the **Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks** along the Alberta-British Columbia border. These include Banff, Canada's first park preserve, Jasper, Kootenay and Yoho national parks as well as Mount Robson, Mount Assiniboine and Hamber provincial parks (British Columbia). On her choice of photographs to depict this iconic landscape, designer Lara Minja chose a climber's bird's-eye view that presents the vastness of the surrounding mountain range.

During the gold rush in what was to become **Nahanni National Park** World Heritage Site (Northwest Territories), prospectors failed to find their fortune, but discovered an incredibly varied landscape. Virginia Falls and the twists of Hell's Gate were sculpted by the last ice age.

Imagine palm trees in Canada! Nearly 400 million years ago, today's **Miguasha National Park** (Quebec) on the Gaspé Peninsula was once a tropical estuary. The fossil beds of the Escuminac Formation, exposed in a seaside cliff provide a rare portrait of Devonian life, including 21 species of fish fossils that have made Miguasha famous.

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